

# SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

104th Congress  
1st Session

Vote No. 101

March 7, 1995, 5:25 p.m.  
Page S-3593 Temp. Record

## DOD SUPPLEMENTAL/Environment Increase-Technology Cut

**SUBJECT:** Department of Defense Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 1995 . . . H.R. 889.  
McCain amendment No. 322 to the committee amendment beginning on page 1, line 3.

### ACTION: AMENDMENT REJECTED, 22-77

**SYNOPSIS:** Pertinent votes on this legislation include Nos. 102-103 and 105-108.

As reported, H.R. 889, the Department of Defense Emergency Supplemental Appropriation Bill for fiscal year 1995, will appropriate \$1.94 billion to cover the costs of unbudgeted Department of Defense (DoD) contingencies, and will rescind \$1.96 billion in appropriations (mostly from the DoD) to offset the cost. (President Clinton requested \$2.54 billion in "emergency" funding, which would allow the spending to be added to the debt instead of being fully offset. The President requested only \$332 million in offsets.)

The committee amendment beginning on page 1, line 3, would strike sections I through IV from the House-passed bill and would insert alternate provisions.

**The McCain amendment** would restore half of the \$300 million proposed rescission in the DoD environmental restoration account, and would rescind an additional \$302 million from the Technology Reinvestment Program (TRP). The net reduction of \$152 million would be used for deficit reduction.

**Those favoring** the amendment contended:

The McCain amendment would cut \$302 million from the Technology Reinvestment Project (TRP), which is a DoD program of little to no military value. It would then appropriate \$150 million for a DoD program that is in need of more funding, the environmental restoration account. It would use the remaining \$152 million to reduce the deficit.

The TRP gives public and private companies money to develop commercial uses of technologies that supposedly also have military uses. The purpose is to retain critical military technologies in this era of defense down-sizing. Applications for TRP grants

(See other side)

YEAS (22)		NAYS (77)				NOT VOTING (1)	
Republicans (20 or 37%)	Democrats (2 or 4%)	Republicans (34 or 63%)		Democrats (43 or 96%)		Republicans (0)	Democrats (1)
Abraham	Bradley	Ashcroft	Jeffords	Akaka	Inouye		Pryor- <sup>4</sup>
Brown	Feingold	Bennett	Lott	Baucus	Johnston		
Campbell		Bond	Lugar	Biden	Kennedy		
Chafee		Burns	Mack	Bingaman	Kerrey		
Craig		Coats	McConnell	Boxer	Kerry		
Faircloth		Cochran	Murkowski	Breaux	Kohl		
Gorton		Cohen	Packwood	Bryan	Lautenberg		
Gramm		Coverdell	Pressler	Bumpers	Leahy		
Grassley		D'Amato	Santorum	Byrd	Levin		
Helms		DeWine	Shelby	Conrad	Lieberman		
Hutchison		Dole	Simpson	Daschle	Mikulski		
Inhofe		Domenici	Smith	Dodd	Moseley-Braun		
Kassebaum		Frist	Specter	Dorgan	Moynihan		
Kempthorne		Grams	Stevens	Exon	Murray		
Kyl		Gregg	Thomas	Feinstein	Nunn		
McCain		Hatch	Thompson	Ford	Pell		
Nickles		Hatfield	Thurmond	Glenn	Reid		
Roth				Graham	Robb		
Snowe				Harkin	Rockefeller		
Warner				Heflin	Sarbanes		
				Hollings	Simon		
					Wellstone		
							<b>EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:</b>
							1—Official Business
							2—Necessarily Absent
							3—Illness
							4—Other
							<b>SYMBOLS:</b>
							AY—Announced Yea
							AN—Announced Nay
							PY—Paired Yea
							PN—Paired Nay

must meet at least one of three criteria: 1) a critical defense technology will be preserved; 2) a defense capability will be made more affordable; or 3) a significant improvement in house safety or the environment will result. This third criteria has been used to fund very questionable projects. Since the creation of this program 3 years ago, \$1.4 billion has been spent, with little of military value to show for the effort. The General Accounting Office is conducting an audit of the TRP, and though its review is not yet complete, it has released tentative findings. Disturbingly, the GAO has found that panel members making the grants have not even been briefed on the objectives of the program. As a consequence, no greater weight has been given to grants for projects related to national security than to projects related to housing or the environment. A \$39 million grant was given to the San Francisco Area Rapid Transit Authority to demonstrate a precision location system for trains in tunnels; a \$6.9 million grant was given to a business consortium to assist small businesses in developing pollution prevention and environmentally safe industrial processes; \$15.8 million was awarded to demonstrate the feasibility of establishing online linkage of medical data bases among medical centers in hospitals across the United States; \$7.6 million was shelled out to develop highly efficient power electronic building blocks to convert, control, and condition electricity to meet U.S. commercial needs.

These and similar programs may have some use to someone, but they cannot seriously be called high military priorities. Defense procurement is at an abysmal low, training and maintenance accounts are being robbed to pay for current operating costs, military housing is substandard, and the problems go on and on. With the severe problems that the DoD has at present, it is unconscionable to waste so much of its money on mass transit projects, private utility projects, and similar efforts with only the most tenuous of connections to defense. Most military leaders not only do not consider the TRP program to be important, most do not even know that it exists. To put it bluntly, this program appears to be using the Defense Department as a cash cow for non-defense spending. Therefore, the McCain amendment's \$302 million proposed rescission from the TRP is praiseworthy.

After making this \$302 million cut, the McCain amendment would give the Defense Department's environmental restoration account half of it. This appropriation for environmental restoration is not made out of any radical environmental inclinations of the amendment's sponsors; instead, it is made in a bow to reality. The base closure process, which is needed to streamline the Defense Department in these difficult fiscal times, has been greatly complicated by the rising costs of environmental cleanup at bases that have been slated for closure. Within the past 3 years, the estimated cleanup costs at these bases have increased ten-fold. In some States the costs will rise even higher, because States that have higher standards than the Federal Government have the right to compel adherence to those higher standards. The resulting delays in closing bases are eliminating the expected savings. Therefore, the McCain amendment's provision of an additional \$150 million for the environmental restoration account is wholly appropriate.

Finally, the remaining \$152 million from the rescission would be applied against the deficit. The Senate has just completed a month of debate on the importance of fiscal responsibility. Many Members were doubtful that the Senate would ever have the courage to make real spending cuts without the enforcement mechanism of a balanced budget amendment. Other Senators said all that was needed was the backbone to cast the tough votes. We urge all Senators to show that they have that backbone, by voting in favor of the McCain amendment.

**Those opposing the amendment contended:**

We support the idea behind the TRP. The DoD does not receive enough funding to develop and retain the critical military technologies that are needed to provide for America's defense in this rapidly changing world. Promoting non-defense uses of the needed technologies by providing an at most 50-percent match to develop such uses both ensures that they will not be lost and that they will be cheaper for the military to acquire. Those Senators who contend that some questionable projects have been funded are correct. However, they should be aware that the Senate Armed Services Committee has only proposed funding for ongoing projects and projects that are approved by the military services themselves. We trust that the military services will do a better job of identifying those projects that deserve funding. At the same time, we do not want to let the impression stand that the TRP has not funded any worthwhile projects; for example, the grant to develop a digital x-ray system for trauma and battlefield applications clearly has military value.

Though we oppose cutting the TRP by \$302 million, we would be willing to make that cut if the money were to go to a defense program that needed it more. The environmental restoration account, though, does not need additional funding. That account has more than \$5.5 billion in it. Most of that funding has not been obligated. Instead of using that money to cleanup closing defense bases, the DoD is wasting its time on endless studies of restoration sites. This year it plans to spend \$810 million more on such studies. Accordingly, the bill before us will rescind \$300 million of that \$810 million, with the purpose of prodding the DoD into getting cleanup projects underway. This rescission will not harm any ongoing cleanup project because so much unobligated money is in the environmental restoration account, plus it will actually hasten the process by eliminating unnecessary studies. If we pass the McCain amendment, we will end up with a lot more paperwork, a lot more delay, and no benefit for our efforts.

In sum, the McCain amendment proposes an unwise trade. It would cut funding for a worthwhile program to benefit a program that is already flush with cash. Consequently, we urge our colleagues to join us in voting against it.